

REMARKS

In order to place this application in condition for a complete action on the merits, the specification has been suitably revised to correct informalities, and to bring it into better conformance with U.S. practice. A new abstract which more clearly reflects the invention to which the amended and new claims are directed has been substituted for the original abstract.

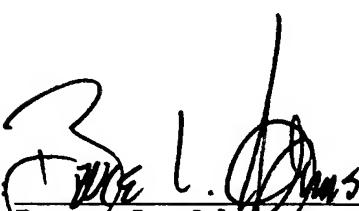
Original claims 1-11 have been amended in formal respects to improve the wording and bring them into better conformance with U.S. practice. New claims 12-16 have been added to provide a more comprehensive scope of coverage. Adequate support for the subject matter recited in the newly added claims may be found in the specification as originally filed.

Early and favorable action on the merits are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS NON-FEE AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

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December 20, 2004

Date